

stained disks resembling red blood corpuscles, about 3 microns in diameter, many large fat globules, a few mononuclear cells, and no micro-organisms; otherwise negative.

As above stated, the larvæ feed only at night and try to hide in their "nests" during the day, but this "hiding" becomes in reality the means by which they are most easily detected and destroyed, for it is much easier to cut down these "nests" than to spray the trees; nevertheless, it requires constant vigilance on the part of the grower. Where the trees stand isolated, as here on the hospital grounds, the insects are more easily controlled than in a grove where the trees frequently touch one another and where the caterpillars can crawl from tree to tree. Altogether, the *Brassolis* will turn out to be a most formidable enemy for the cocoanut grower if it is allowed to spread, and every possible attention should be given to the immediate destruction of the larvæ at their first appearance. I will add that I have noticed *Brassolis isthmia* on the following wild and cultivated palms of the Isthmus, besides cocoanut: *Martinezia caryotafolia*, *Acrocomia sclerocarpa*, *Oreodoxa regia* and *oleracca*, and two unidentified species of *Thrinax*.

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## A NEW COCCID OF THE GENUS ERIOCOCCUS.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL.

I have recently received, through Prof. R. H. Forbes, a species of *Eriococcus* collected by Mr. D. J. Craig at Bellevue, Gila Co., Ariz., on *Quercus toumeyii* Sargent, occurring on the small twigs in company with a species of *Eulecanium*. Upon examination it proves to be one of the species or races of the *E. quercus* group, distinctly differing both from true *quercus* and from *toumeyii* Ckll., the latter being from Arizona, on *Prosopis*. It may be described as follows:

### *Eriococcus quercus gilensis*, n. subsp.

Ovisac pure white, ordinary, about 4 mm. long. On boiling in caustic potash the insect does not stain the liquid pink. Dermal spines strong, about 45  $\mu$  long. Tibia always longer than tarsus. Antennæ 7-jointed, joint 4 always longest, longer than 3, which averages a little longer than 7; 5 and 6 short and equal.

The following measurements are in  $\mu$ . Femur and trochanter: Middle, 190; hind, 205. Tibia: Anterior, 125; middle, 145; hind, 150. Tarsus (without claw): Anterior, 67; middle, 75; hind, 82. Antennal joints, different examples: (2) 37½, 30, 30; (3) 42½, 42½, 37½, 35; (4) 57½,

52½, 45, 37½; (5) 22½, 25, 22½, 22½; (6) 22½, 25, 22½, 20; (7) 35, 37½, 35, 30.

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## A NEW BRACONID OF THE GENUS ELASMOSOMA.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL.

On the afternoon of July 16, 1908, at Boulder, Colo., my wife called me to see a great battle between the ants *Formica sanguinea* Latr. and *F. subpolita* Mayr. which was taking place on the pavement adjacent to the university campus. As we watched the conflict, my wife noticed certain minute insects hovering over the ants. They remained hovering in the air about an inch above the ground, darting downwards at intervals to alight for an instant on the back of a worker *F. subpolita*. Two specimens were collected, and, as was expected, they proved to belong to the curious genus *Elasmosoma*.<sup>a</sup>

### *Elasmosoma vigilans*, n. sp.

*Female*. Length, 2 mm. or slightly more; black with a dullish surface, the abdomen more shining; abdomen a little shorter than thorax; wings hyaline, the costa and stigma dark brown; legs very pale reddish, the tarsi white, black at apex; antennæ dark, 12-jointed, the flagellar joints with numerous longitudinal keels, and with many short pale hairs; broad apical margin of clypeus, labrum, and mandibles very pale yellowish, the apices of the mandibles ferruginous; mandibles strongly bidentate, the inner tooth about half as long as the outer; face and front with fine transverse lineolation, passing into reticulation; mesothorax with very fine punctures of two sizes, and scattered short pale hairs; scutellum similarly sculptured; sides of metathorax with coarse irregular reticulation; abdomen with very fine and very dense punctures, its lateral margin sharp; basal part of marginal neurone brown and distinct, but it ends before level of end of stigma in a swelling, and beyond that is merely indicated by a faint shade. The middle and hind coxæ are pale, colorous with their trochanters and femora.

The short abdomen alone will readily separate this from *E. schwarzi* Ashm. and *E. pergandei* Ashm.; from *E. bakeri* Ashm. (from Fort Collins, Colorado) the color of the middle and hind coxæ would serve as a mark of distinction, but as *E. bakeri* is only known in the male, it occurred to me that the present insect might be its female. Mr. J. C. Crawford has very kindly compared one of my specimens (now in the U. S. National Museum) with the type of *E. bakeri*, and is of the opinion that it is distinct. In *E. bakeri* the region in front of the

<sup>a</sup> Discussed by Ashmead in Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., III, p. 280.